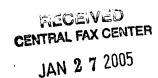
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## In the Claims

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Pursuant to Examiner's claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), Applicant hereby submits amended claims, including a complete listing of all claims in the application with the status of each claim in parentheses.

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method for using a relationship manager apparatus to assist a user in optimizing a relationship with a contact person, the method comprising:
- inputting information regarding the relationship into the apparatus; classifying the relationship into at least one class;
  - assigning a contact frequency to the relationship, said contact frequency being chosen to optimally cultivate said relationship;

providing the user with information about the relationship based on the at least one class; and

contacting the user at the contact frequency with a first message regarding the relationship, said first message being in the form of a reminder providing the user with information unique to said relationship.

- 20 2. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of inputting information further comprises inputting information about the contact person.
  - 3. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 2, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the contact person.

- 4. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of inputting information further comprises inputting information about the user.
- 5 5. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 4, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the user.
  - 6. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user assigns the contact frequency.
- 7 (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus assigns the contact frequency.
  - 8. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 7, wherein the user reassigns the contact frequency.
  - 9. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the classification step further comprises classifying the relationship into a plurality of classes.
- 10. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of classes
  20 comprises at least one master class and at least one sub class.

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- 11. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises a means for inputting details of an action taken by the user in response to the first message.
- 5 12. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 11, wherein after the contacting step, the method further comprising:

the user inputting details of an action taken in response to the first message; and

after the user inputs the details of an action taken in response to the
first message, contacting the user at the contact frequency with a second
message regarding the relationship, the second message further comprising
the details of an action taken in response to the first message.

- 13. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises educational information and advice based on the at least one class.
  - 14. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises gift recommendations.
- 20 15. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises activity suggestions.

- 16. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises suggested topics of conversation.
- 17. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises prewritten correspondence.
  - 18. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, further comprising contacting the contact person with a second message.
- 10 19. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 18, wherein the second message comprises a means for inputting information regarding the relationship.
  - 20. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of inputting information further comprises a relationship expert inputting information.
  - 21. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises information regarding a vendor.
- 22. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 21, further comprising providing access to the vendor.
  - 23. (Currently amended) An apparatus to assist a user in optimizing a relationship with a contact person, the apparatus comprising:

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a storage device;

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a processor connected to the storage device;

the storage device storing

a first input from the user regarding the relationship;

classifications for different types of relationships;

information for each classification;

contact frequencies for each type of relationship; and,

a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program adapted to

receive the first input from the user regarding the relationship;

classify the relationship;

assign a contact frequency to the relationship, said contact frequency being chosen to optimally cultivate said relationship;

provide to the user information based on the classification of the

15 relationship; and

contact the user at the contact frequency with a first message regarding the relationship, said first message being in the form of a reminder providing the user with information unique to said relationship.

20 24. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second in-put from the user regarding information about the contact person, and the storage device further stores the second input.

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- 25. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the contact person.
- 26. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the user regarding information about the user, and the storage device further stores the second input.
  - 27. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the user.
  - 28. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to

receive a second input from the user regarding the contact frequency; and reassign the contact frequency to the relationship based on the second input; and

the storage device further stores the second input.

- 29. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to classify the relationship into a plurality of classes.
- 30. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of classes comprises at least one master class and at least one sub-class.

- 31. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the user regarding the details of an action taken by the user in response to the first message, and the storage device further stores the second input.
- 5 32. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the program is further adapted to contact the user at the contact frequency with a second message regarding the relationship, the second message further comprising the details of an action taken in response to the first message.
- 10 33. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message comprises information based on the at least one class.
  - 34. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises gift recommendations.
  - 35. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises activity suggestions.
- 36. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises suggested topics of conversation.
  - 37. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises prewritten correspondence.

- 38. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to contact the other person with a second message.
- 5 39. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the contact person regarding the relationship and the storage device further stores the second input.
- 40. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is

  10 further adapted to receive a second input from the relationship expert and the storage device

  further stores the second input.
  - 41. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus is connected to a remote processor.
  - 42. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the first message comprises a link to the second processor.
- 43. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message comprises information about a vendor.
  - 44. (Previously submitted) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the processor is linked to the vendor.